

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an enhanced opening system for a sealed container comprising:

providing a bag having lines of weakness and a pull-tab opener secured to the bag proximate to the lines of weakness, the pull-tab opener having a pull-tab opening integral therewith, wherein the pull-tab opening is a hole large enough designed to be hooked with hooking means and pulled on to open the sealed container without utilizing a pinch force; and

providing suitable markings to convey instructions to pull on the pull-tab opener to access contents within the sealed container without utilizing a pinch force, wherein the sealed container is adapted to be opened easily with the pull-tab opener by a person who follows the instructions conveyed by the markings.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising providing words to convey the instructions.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the pull-tab opener is a reusable pull-tab opener.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising securing the reusable pull-tab opener to the bag with reusable securing means or a combination of reusable securing means and permanent securing means.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an enhanced product removal system for a sealed container comprising:

providing a sealed container having lines of weakness;

providing at least one product disposed within the sealed container; and

providing a pull-tab opener secured to the sealed container proximate to the lines of weakness, wherein the pull-tab opener has a pull-tab opening configured as a hole large enough to allow a user to hook the pull-tab opener through the pull-tab opening and apply sufficient pulling force without utilizing a pinch force[.] to cause the sealed container to tear ~~the sealed container~~ at the lines of weakness creating and create an opening, further wherein the product is oriented proximate to the opening to facilitate easy removal of the product.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the pull-tab opener is a reusable pull-tab opener secured to the bag with reusable securing means or a combination of reusable securing means and permanent securing means.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the lines of weakness include two substantially parallel lines of perforations and a slit or third line of perforations located substantially perpendicular to and in between the two substantially parallel lines of perforations at one end, further wherein the reusable pull-tab opener covers the two substantially parallel lines of perforations, further wherein the sealed container is comprised of six panels arranged in a rectangular configuration and the substantially parallel lines of perforations extend across a portion of two adjacent panels.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the lines of weakness include two substantially parallel lines of perforations and a slit or third line of perforations located substantially perpendicular to and in between the two substantially parallel lines of perforations at one end, further wherein the reusable pull-tab opener covers the two substantially parallel lines of perforations, further wherein the sealed container is comprised of six panels arranged in a rectangular configuration and the substantially parallel lines of perforations are contained on a single panel.

-
19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein at least a portion of the lines of weakness are perforations that form a V-shape having a perforation junction, further wherein the reusable pull-tab opener covers the perforation junction.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further providing markings to convey instructions to pull on the pull-tab to access the contents without utilizing a pinch force.
21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising providing words to convey the instructions.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the contents comprise at least one product disposed within the sealed container.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the at least one product is a disposable garment.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the disposable garment is an absorbent article.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the absorbent article is selected from the group consisting of a diaper, training pants, adult incontinence garment and feminine napkin.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the contents comprises articles of different types and sizes.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the bag and pull-tab opener are made from a polymeric plastic film, paper or a paper composite and the pull-tab opening is a finger-sized opening.

-
28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 11 wherein the hooking means comprises one to three fingers or an object, the object having a maximum diameter not greater than about ~~eight (8)~~ 6.9 cm.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the lines of weakness are torn and an opening is created when the pull-tab opener is pulled on.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the contents are oriented proximate to the opening to facilitate easy removal.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein at least a portion of the lines of weakness form a V-shape having a perforation junction or a U-shape, wherein the U-shape has two substantially parallel lines of perforations and a slit or third line of perforations located substantially perpendicular to and in between the two substantially parallel lines of perforations at one end.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein at least a portion of the lines of weakness form the V-shape and the reusable pull tab opener covers the perforation junction.
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein at least a portion of the lines of weakness form the U-shape and the reusable pull-tab opener covers the two substantially parallel lines of perforations.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the sealed container is comprised of six panels arranged in a rectangular configuration and the substantially parallel lines of perforations extend across a portion of two adjacent panels.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the sealed container is comprised of six panels arranged in a rectangular configuration and the substantially parallel lines of perforations are contained on a single panel.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an enhanced opening system for a sealed container comprising:

providing a bag having lines of weakness and a pull-tab opener for opening the sealed container, the pull-tab opener secured to the bag proximate to the lines of weakness, the pull-tab opener having a pull-tab opening integral therewith, wherein the pull-tab opening is a hole large enough designed to be hooked with hooking means and pulled on in order to open the sealed container.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising:

providing suitable markings to convey instructions to pull on the pull-tab opener to access package contents without utilizing a pinch force, wherein the sealed container is adapted to be opened easily by a person who follows the instructions conveyed by the markings.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising providing words to convey the instructions.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the pull-tab opener is a reusable pull-tab opener.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 further comprising securing the reusable pull-tab opener to the bag with reusable securing means or a combination of reusable securing means and a permanent securing means.

Please add the following new claims:

41. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the hole is not greater than about 15 cm in at least one of length or width.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the hole is not greater than about 7.6 cm in at least one of length or width.

43. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the hole is not less than about 1.3 cm in at least one of length or width.

44. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the hole is not greater than about 15 cm in at least one of length or width.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the hole is not greater than about 7.6 cm in at least one of length or width.

46. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the hole is not less than about 1.3 cm in at least one of length or width.

47. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the hole is not greater than about 15 cm in at least one of length or width.

48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the hole is not greater than about 7.6 cm in at least one of length or width.

49. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the hole is not less than about 1.3 cm in at least one of length or width.